

**Consideration of the dedication of an addition to Conrad Savanna Nature Preserve,
Newton County**

The proposed nature preserve addition is a 140 acre property located immediately to the south of the existing Conrad Savanna Nature Preserve, just west of US 41. This tract contains black oak sand savanna and sand prairie, as well as some former agricultural fields. It is owned and managed by the Division of Nature Preserves, Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

The proposed addition would add 140 acres to the existing 313 acre Conrad Savanna Nature Preserve, making it one of the largest black oak savanna complexes remaining in Indiana. The topography consists of rolling sand dunes and sand flats. Savannas are characterized by widely spaced, open-grown trees, with very little woody understory. The widely spaced trees create an openness that allows grasses, sedges, and wildflowers common to sand prairies to be a major component of the flora. Fires are a normal part of the existence of savannas, and they are responsible for maintaining the open character of these natural communities. Prescribed burning will be undertaken by DNR to maintain this habitat.

The Division of Nature Preserves recommends dedication of this site as a State Nature Preserve.

Attached is Nature Preserves Exhibit A: map indicating the location and boundaries of the proposed addition to the nature preserve.

Nature Preserve Exhibit A

Nature Preserve

County: Newton
Size: 140 acres

USGS Map: Enos 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Nature Preserves

